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Notice of opportunity to comment

Published: 9/28/2016

Notice of opportunity to comment

US Forest Service, National Forests in Florida

The US Forest Service has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Amendment 12 to the National Forests in Florida Land and Resource Management Plan. This amendment proposes changing Management Areas on the Ocala National Forest and revising management direction to promote open scrub habitat for Florida scrub-jays and many other rare animal and plant species. The proposed amendment and public involvement process are subject to Forest Service planning regulations at 36 CFR 219. The Forest Supervisor, Kelly Russell, is the responsible official for this project and will decide to implement all or part the proposed changes or to not amend the Forest Plan. The EA and supporting documents, including relevant regulations, are available on the project website (http://goo.gl/1Ze7Xg) or upon request (contact Matthew Trager, mdtrager@fs.fed.us or 850-523-8582).

The opportunity to comment on this project ends 30 days following the date of publication of this legal notice in the Ocala Star Banner. Only individuals who submit substantive formal comments during this period or who already submitted comments during the project scoping period may object to the decision when a draft decision is available (36 CFR 219.53). All comments will be considered, but individuals or representatives of organizations must sign their comments or verify their identity upon request for their comments to confer eligibility to object. Comments received, including the names and contact information of commenters, will be part of the public record for this project.

We encourage submission of comments by email. Comments in a common digital format (e.g., attached MS Word document, plain text or pdf file, or in the body of the email) should be sent to

comments-southern-florida@fs.fed.us with "Forest Plan Amendment 12" as the subject. Hard-copy comments on this proposal should be sent to Kelly Russell, Forest Supervisor, by mail (National Forests in Florida, 325 John Knox Rd. Ste. F-100, Tallahassee, Florida 32303), phone (850-523-8500) or fax (850-523-8505). Hand-delivered comments must be received during our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed on federal holidays.

September 28, 2016 #A000897078

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